

Appl. No. 10/648,457

Amdt. Dated May 31, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 25, 2005

Remarks

This is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action of April 25, 2005. In the Office Action claims 1-19 were rejected. Claims 20-26 were withdrawn in response to a restriction requirement. The Office Action further objected to certain informalities in the disclosure and in the claims. These rejections and objections have been addressed as noted below. Reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 – 11 and 14 UNDER 35 USC § 103(a)

The Office Action rejected claims 1 – 11 and 14 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Johnson (US Patent No. 2,912,007) in view of Ray (US Patent No. 2,850,685). Applicants have amended these claims to more clearly reflect an aspect of their invention. Specifically, the amended claim set now describes fluid flowing, when the valve is in the open position, from the supply inlet, through the minor channel to the actuator chamber, then through the actuator chamber to the control port. Applicants submit this fluid path is not disclosed or taught in Johnson or Ray.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 12, 13, and 15-19 UNDER 35 USC § 102

The Examiner has further rejected claims 12, 13, and 15-19 as being anticipated by Johnson. The Applicants have amended independent claims 12 and 17 in a manner similar to that of claim 1. Independent claims 12 and 17 also describe a fluid path from the supply inlet, through the minor

Appl. No. 10/648,457

Amdt. Dated May 31, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 25, 2005

channel, through the chamber, and to the control port. Given these claim amendments, the Applicants respectfully assert the rejection based on Johnson has been overcome.

III. CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The objection to independent claim 1 has been addressed in the amendments to that claim. Similarly, the objections to claims 3, 6, and 8 for lack of antecedent basis are obviated by the amendment to claim 1.

IV. SPECIFICATION OBJECTIONS

The Office Action also noted various objections to the specification. It is submitted that these objections have all been corrected by the amendments to the specification.

Appl. No. 10/648,457

Amdt. Dated May 31, 2005

Reply to Office Action of April 25, 2005

Conclusion

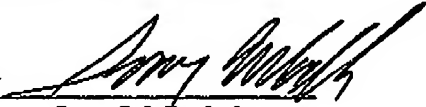
In view of the Applicants' amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the objections to and the rejections of claims 1-19 have been overcome. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims of the application (1 through 19) are now in condition for allowance, and such allowance is therefore earnestly requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or wish to further discuss this application, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the Applicants attorneys associated with Customer Number 29,906.

If for some reason Applicants have not requested a sufficient extension and/or have not paid a sufficient fee for this response and/or for the extension necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, please consider this as a request for an extension for the required time period. If there are any fees associated with this Response, they may be charged to Deposit Account 50-2091. The PTO is authorized to charge any petition or extension fees to this account.

Respectfully submitted

Date: May 31, 2005

By


Ivan J. Mlachak
Reg. No. 42,008
(480) 385-5060